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**Title:** REFINING THE MARITIME BOUNDARY DELIMITATION METHODOLOGY: THE SEARCH FOR PREDICTABILITY AND CERTAINTY**Author(s):** Sein, AGHKM (Sein, Abdul Ghafur Hamid Khin Maung)**Source:** IIUM LAW JOURNAL **Volume:** 27 **Issue:** 1 **Pages:** 35-61 **DOI:** 10.31436/iiumlj.v27i1.457 **Published:** 2019**Times Cited in Web of Science Core Collection:** 0**Total Times Cited:** 0**Usage Count (Last 180 days):** 0**Usage Count (Since 2013):** 0**Cited Reference Count:** 14

**Abstract:** For decades, the maritime boundary delimitation methodology remains uncertain and confusing. This is as a result of the sole reliance on equitable principles, total disregard of the equidistance method in the North Sea Continental Shelf cases and vague provisions of the United Nations Convention on the Law of the Sea (UNCLOS) 1982 in particular on the delimitation of the exclusive economic zone and the continental shelf. The main objective of the present article is to investigate how the delimitation methodology could be refined to be more predictable and certain through the flexible interpretation of the conventional law by the decisions of international courts and tribunals. The article first of all traces the codification history of the UNCLOS 1982 in order to ascertain the view of States expressed during the drafting process, which reflected the bitter rivalry between the two camps of equidistance and equitable principles. The article then makes a painstaking analysis of the decisions of international courts and tribunals since the 1990s to the most recent decision and finds that the equidistance principle has been reinstated as a basic methodology in maritime boundary delimitation, supplemented by relevant circumstances, in order to achieve an equitable solution. The article concludes that the search for predictability and certainty in maritime boundary delimitation has, to some extent, been achieved in the form of the recent three-stage approach, although there are still grey areas where significant uncertainty remains.

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